

WASHINGTON'S LATEST BATTLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS



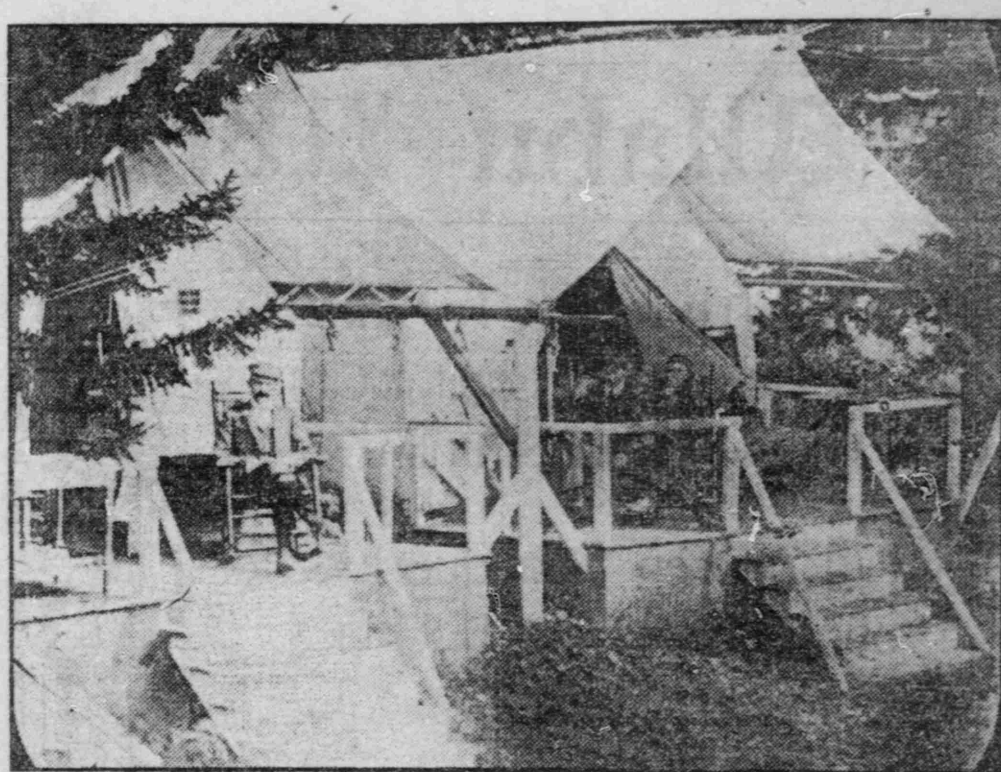
LITTLE SUFFERERS.

TUBERCULOSIS KILLS

One in every seven persons in the world;
One in every three who die between the ages of fifteen and sixty;
One hundred and fifty thousand persons every year, in the United States;
One million and ninety-five thousand persons every year, in the world;
Three thousand persons every day, in the world;
Two persons every minute, in the world;
Seven hundred and ninety persons every year in Washington;
One in every seven who die in the District of Columbia each year.
There are 2,500 cases in Washington today.

EXPERT'S OPINION

"In the early stages of tuberculosis all cases recover under proper treatment. This treatment is so simple that it ought to be within the reach of everyone. It is not because the truth is not recognized. Men have not yet freed themselves from the shackles of the past. It is hard to unlearn. The average physician still clings to cough mixtures and closed rooms, and in so doing abets the disease rather than the patient."—Dr. Lawrence T. Flick, President of Phipps Institute.



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TENT.

Intelligent Probing Into the Great White Plague Now Going On in the District of Columbia Develops Many Facts Hitherto Unknown.

THERE is a battle on in the District of Columbia, and it is a fight to the finish, without surcease or quarter. On the one hand is arrayed the countless legions of an invisible foe, known as the bacilli of tuberculosis, or consumption, which, from its ravages in the ranks of human life, especially among the Caucasian races, has come to be known as the Great White Plague. Against its insidious phalanxes are arrayed a number of intelligent, philanthropic men and women, whose allies are education and common sense. Which has the better chance of victory, and what are the weapons employed in this unequal contest?

So great are the inroads made by this disease that we find the medical profession and others interested in the alleviation of human suffering engaged in organized efforts to suppress it all over the world. On January 25 an exposition was opened at Baltimore, attended by the leaders in this fight, where a week was put in most profitably in comparing methods and results. The fight is by no means a modern one, however. Hippocrates, five centuries before Christ, wrote of it, and recommended a treatment similar to that now in vogue. Galen, too, saw that fresh air was the one specific in the days of the Roman empire. "But their teachings fell on deaf ears, and until very recently the practice of physicians was to keep the patient shut up in a warm and close room, feeding him on noxious drugs."

The Beginning.

The crusade against consumption in this country was inaugurated in New York by the organization of a committee to disseminate knowledge of how to reduce the danger among the ignorant classes, and this plan has come to be adopted by other large communities. It is a little more than a year ago that the Washington Committee for the Prevention of Consumption was formed, at the instance of Secretary Weller, of the Associated Charities.

This committee is composed of Dr. William C. Woodward, Health Officer of the District of Columbia; chairman; General M. Sternberg, vice chairman; George M. Sternberg, treasurer; Charles F. Weller, secretary, and the following subcommittees:

Lectures—Dr. Percy Hickling, chairman; Dr. G. W. N. Curtis, Rabbi Louis Stern, the Rev. John A. Schalk, Jr., Dr. C. I. West, the Rev. D. E. Wiseman, W. S. Duffield, E. H. Hunter.

Care and treatment—George M. Sternberg, chairman; Dr. G. M. Kober, John F. Wilkins, Emily Tuckerman, Miss H. L. Washington.

Finance—Thomas W. Smith, chairman; Col. George Tweedell, William F. Gude, William F. Downey.

Laws and administration—Surgeon General Walter Wyman, chairman; Admiral William K. Van Rye, M. G. Seckendorff.

Printing and distribution—Dr. Richard Kingsman, chairman; Dr. Murray G. Motter, Rudolph Kaufmann.

Local Conditions.

The local conditions were such as well to warrant a crusade against them. Statistics showed that Washington ranked third in mortality from tuberculosis, her percentage of deaths from this cause being exceeded only by Los Angeles and Denver, both resorts where consumptives go in extremis to die. The committee found the conditions of alley life to be as they were recently shown by the investigations of Jacob Rills—the worst in America. In view of the fact that uncleanness and crowding of the poor is the most prolific cause of the disease, it was not hard to grasp the reason for the high mortality. They also learned that, with all the hospitals which the Capital City can boast, but one—the Washington Asylum Hospital—would admit a consumptive patient, and its equipment is totally inadequate to handle even a fractional percentage of the cases.

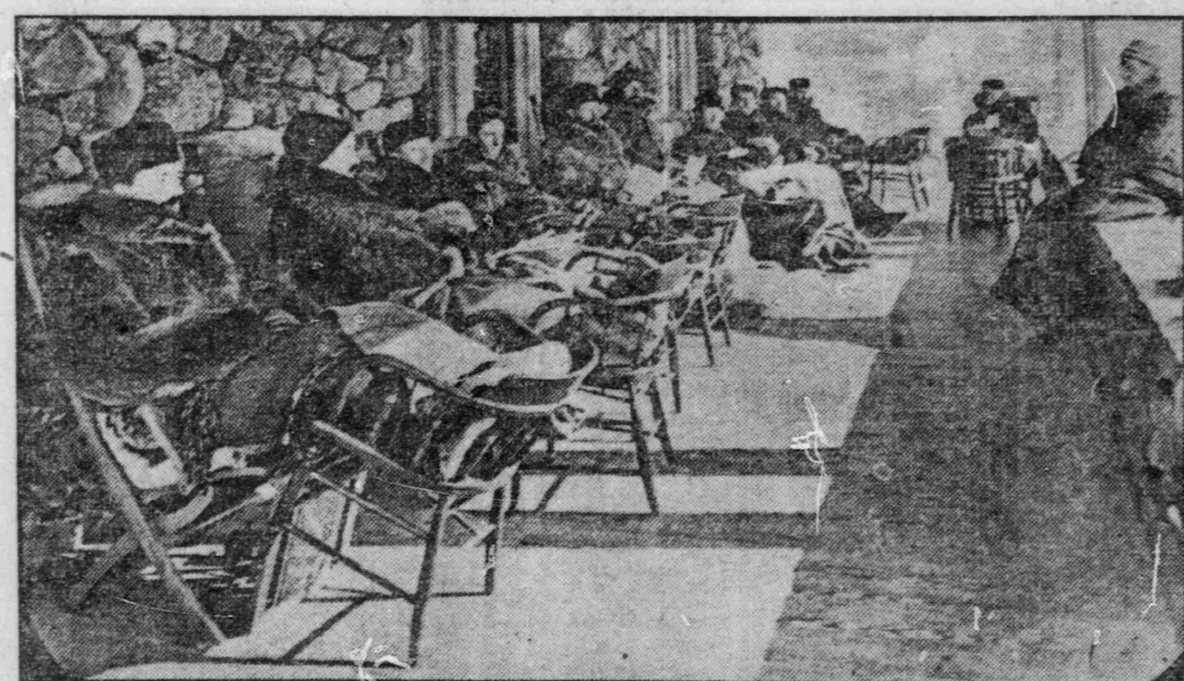
Money Needed.

Here were the conditions, and here was the little band of fighters—without any money, the most essential weapon. At this juncture William J. Kohoe, secretary of one of the committees of Congress, becoming interested in the work, subscribed a sufficient sum to enable the committee to disseminate educational literature, and to give stereopticon lectures in churches and schools. This campaign has been going on for more than a year.

What good has been accomplished, only the agents of the Associated Charities and the members of the Instructive Visiting Nurse Association, and others who attempt to alleviate suffering in homes, can form any idea. Gradually the people have been taught that consumption is both communicable and preventable; that the sputum of the patient, if allowed to dry, throws off some thousands of millions of bacilli from each patient in the course of twenty-four hours, which, inhaled by other members of the family, establishes the disease in them; that sedentary occupations and those like cigar making, where dust is inhaled, are conducive to the disease, and that a victim should obtain outdoor employment; that every case, if taken in time and properly treated, is curable, and thus the element of hope comes to aid the resisting powers of the body.

Before Congress.

But this educational campaign, however valuable, is not enough, and the committee did not stop there. They secured the passage of the anti-spitting ordinance.



AT A NORTHERN SANITARIUM.

They have brought pressure to bear on Congress and the Commissioners, to effect the speedy erection, before any other building of the proposed Municipal Hospital, of the tubercular ward, as providing for the greatest need of the community. The greatest progress, however, was at the meeting of the committee on January 23 last, when an impetus was given to the work which must yield large results.

The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic. It was decided to make two recommendations to Congress, one that the Health Office be provided with the additional force necessary to furnish free microscopic examination of the sputum of suspected cases, the other that provision be made for the registration of consumptive patients, and that this be required for tubercular cases as for cases of scarlet fever, smallpox, diphtheria, and the like, all of which diseases together do not cause the mortality of this one.

Since then this has been brought to the attention of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, and the National Homeopathic Medical Association, and it is understood that both these organizations will lend their hearty support to the movement.

At this meeting, too, General Sternberg read a letter he has received from Henry Phipps, the millionaire, who has erected in Philadelphia the largest and best equipped hospital for consumptive patients in the country, known as the Phipps Institute. Mr. Phipps, expressing his appreciation of the efforts of the committee, inclosed his check for \$1,000, which greatly encouraged the members of the committee.

Miss Tuckerman's Enterprise.

The most signal feature of the meeting, however, was the contribution by Miss Emily Tuckerman, of \$100, to be used immediately for the erection, in the grounds of the Washington Asylum Hospital, of a tent for the out-door treatment of consumptives, similar to



SURG. GEN. STERNBERG.

those in use in New York and elsewhere. This sum was turned over to Dr. D. Percy Hickling, head of the Washington Asylum Hospital, and by him was put to such good purpose that, despite the weather conditions, a tent has been placed in operation.

The full significance of Miss Tuckerman's enterprise can hardly be overestimated. The actual living in the open air has been found by all authorities to be the one specific for consumption. In his address at the Baltimore exposition, Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, head of the Phipps Institute, had this to say on the subject:

"Tuberculosis can be cured in any climate. All that is necessary is life

TENTS ERECTED.

After a year's effort along purely educational lines, the Washington "Committee for the Prevention of Consumption" has at last been enabled, through the generosity of one of its members, to employ the means most approved by modern science for combating this evil—the outdoor, or tent, treatment for the victims. The initial tent has been erected at the Washington Asylum Hospital, and others will be added as means and time afford. Washington is therefore prepared to follow New York and other large communities in an intelligent crusade against this deadly evil.

In the open air, proper food, well regulated and carefully disciplined conduct, and, in more advanced cases, properly directed rest and exercise. People who can command these things in their homes can be cured in their homes. People who cannot command them should be treated in sanatoria. Most people can be treated better in sanatoria than in their homes.

"Sunlight, air and water are the natural enemies of the tubercle bacillus. Sunlight and air kill it and water dissolves it out of its cache, so that light and air may get at it."

"Houses of one kind and another are the ordinary means of spreading tuberculosis. The home is the most frequent means and the workshop the next. This is so because it takes prolonged intimate

contact with a person, place or thing which has been intensely contaminated with tubercular matter to give rise to an implantation.

The home and the workshop are the two places where environment of sufficient intensity of contamination and contact of long enough duration for implantation most readily can exist. Probably three-fourths of all cases of tuberculosis which are contracted from person to person are contracted in the home and the other fourth is contracted in the workshop."

Tent System.

This tent system has been used to great advantage by those dealing with consumption in other cities of America and Europe, the idea of using it in Washington being taken from the plan that was in operation in New York for about a year under the direction of Homer Folk, charity commissioner under Seth Low.

He began taking patients out of the hospital and putting them in tents erected within the hospital grounds. These tents have wooden floors and are heated either by steam or by stoves. They are constructed so that their sides may be raised or the canvas at the top taken off, exposing the patients to the sunlight.

The patients have shown steady improvement ever since they began to live out of doors. Those who were known to be incurable have improved and several have become almost entirely well.

They stay out in summer and winter and a number of those who moved from the hospital to the tents a year ago have not slept under a roof since. These points had been brought out in a talk before the committee, when Miss Tuckerman asked what it would cost to equip such a tent. On learning that one could be constructed for \$100, which would accommodate ten persons, she promptly gave that amount. It is probable that her effort will be followed by the appropriation of a part of the money received from Mr. Phipps to the construction of other tents.

The testimony of a patient of the modern method is of interest.

A man who can sleep night after night out of doors in a light canvas tent, in zero weather, take a sponge bath in ice cold water and who likes nothing better than a plunge in a snowbank costumed as for a plunge in the surf on a hot day, is to be found in Danbury, Conn. Louis R. Andrews is his name, his home is at 8 Quin Street, and he certainly does not look capable of living the strenuous life he leads.

It was not from choice Mr. Andrews adopted his present mode of life. Two years ago he was given up by prominent physicians, and, although not told in so many words, was made to understand that he must die from consumption, as others of his family had died before him.

His Fight.

"I determined," says Mr. Andrews, "to die fighting, if I must go. Of course, I knew the value of the open air treatment. At first I had a corner room in the house fixed up. I had the windows taken out, and I slept there all last winter. Then I read of the value of being close to the earth when dealing with such a trouble as mine, and resolved to try it. So I rigged up an 8x8 tent out in the back yard, and I slept there all winter long. Yes, I have been greatly helped. I can't just explain it, but there is a peculiar sensation experienced by one sleeping close to the ground. I am convinced that it is electricity in the earth. It gives one a healthful thrill. This spring and summer I shall sleep on the ground. I now sleep on a small army cot with only a light covering over me."

With intelligent co-operation, carrying on the war against consumption in every possible manner the committee on the prevention of consumption hopes to reduce the power of the Great White Plague in Washington to a minimum, and confidently expects that the results of their labors will, besides bringing comfort to many sufferers, include the cutting down of the death rate in the Capital City more rapidly than that of New York has been cut down in the past eighteen years, since the inauguration of the crusade in that city.

TRICKS OF SHREWD PEOPLE WHO WOULD EVADE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS LAWS

"NOTHING new under the sun" will not apply to the methods of smugglers. Nearly every day information comes to the officers of the customs division of the Treasury Department of some novel scheme worked out in the fertile brain of one of the army of sharps of both sexes who are persistently striving to mine under the tariff wall around the United States.

So many new plans are devised and so many old devices are modified and used anew that the experienced special agent of the customs service is never surprised at any method employed to circumvent the customs regulations.

Fed With Diamond-Filled Sausage.

A few days ago a report was made to Assistant Secretary Armstrong of a strange and effective method employed by a diamond smuggler to get diamonds across the border at Detroit. He purchased several thousand dollars' worth of diamonds on the Canadian side and then looked around and bought up a small and mangy-looking dog for 50 cents.

After allowing the dog to starve a little more completely than it had already he fed the animal a piece of sausage in which the diamonds had been placed. The smuggler and the dog then proceeded to go across to Detroit.

The customs officers saw nothing suspicious in a plain-looking man and a

half-starved dog, and they allowed them to pass with a cursory inspection. On arriving at Detroit the dog was killed and the owner found the diamonds without trouble and disposed of them successfully.

Many ingenious plans are devised to smuggle diamonds, and there is no doubt large quantities of these valuable are brought into the country without the knowledge of the customs officers.

Hiding Place a Baby's Rattle.

Not long ago special agents ran down a man and his wife who had brought diamonds across the Canadian border in a baby's rattle. The diamonds had been wrapped in cotton and placed inside the tin box. The baby was given the rattling, and, of course, was not molested by the inspector. Subsequently, however, the offenders were discovered.

Another method which has been successfully employed to smuggle diamonds is to fill the frames of bicycles with the precious stones. In the days when bicycling was more of a craze than it is now this was an especially easy method of avoiding payment of duty.

Wrapped in a Railway Guide.

Hidden within a railway guide sent to this country from Germany a deputy customs collector in New York recently found \$2,000 worth of diamonds. This case was an illustration of the fact that the average officer against the law is

just clever enough not to conceal his tracks entirely. The device used was a clever one, but the author of it showed stupidity in selecting a bulky volume like a railway guide for the purpose, as it attracted instant attention from the postoffice customs officials.

When the book was examined it was found a little nest for the diamonds had been made near the back by cutting a hole through a number of leaves.

Two negroes were recently detected in the process of smuggling diamonds into a Southern port from the Bermudas. They had the jewels fastened to a cotton cloth and had wrapped the cloth around their legs.

A Jew was overhauled in New York not long since who had a small pocket made in his undershirt just under the armpit. The diamonds had been put in the pocket and the pocket carefully sewed up. The work was neatly done, and only by a careful examination of the man's garments was the fraud detected.

The method of bringing in diamonds by concealing them in shoes is quite frequently resorted to. Two smugglers detected in New York had iron plates on the heels of their footwear. When the suspicious customs inspectors pried the iron from the heels, they found neatly resting in holes dug in the leather diamonds of the value of many thousands of dollars.

Nogales, on the Mexican border, is a locality especially troublesome for the customs officers. There the boundary

line runs through the middle of a principal street. When a man wants to smuggle something across the border, especially a small article such as a diamond, he wraps it in a newspaper or puts it in a letter, then he walks from the Mexican side of the street over across the boundary and mails the paper or letter in the United States.

Only the most constant scrutiny of the mails by postoffice customs officials prevents wholesale smuggling. Even then there is no doubt many diamonds and pieces of jewelry are sent through without payment of duty.

Opium smugglers are a prolific source of trouble to the customs authorities, especially on the Pacific Coast. Puga Sound is an unusually good field for the opium smuggler. There are something like 2,000 miles of coast line in the winding and tortuous sinuosities of Puga Sound. It is almost impossible to guard all this line efficiently.

The Chinese are especially given to the smuggling of opium. They buy it at a low figure, on the Asiatic coast, bring it to this country, and if they can run the customs gantlet dispose of it with ease at a high profit.

It deserves to be said the Chinese are not the only offenders, however. Sailors frequently bring in opium and soldiers returning from the Far East often do a little speculating on their own account by getting into the illicit opium traffic.

Owing to the large number of Chinese

and the number of "hop joints" on the Pacific Coast, the sale of smuggled opium in that region is never difficult. In fact, customs officers say the habit of smoking opium is growing to such a degree that the narcotic can be sold with ease in almost any large city of the country.

Drugs in a Pillow.

One of the devices the Chinese use with success to bring in opium is a small pillow. When the Mongolian seeks out to come to this country he brings with him a number of little, oblong pillows, on which to rest his head when he sleeps on deck. A careful inspection of the interior of these pillows will frequently disclose a quantity of opium.

Another article which the Chinaman frequently smuggles in the same way is playing cards. These are manufactured at a low figure in China, and can be sold in this country at a considerable profit.

Chinese Shrewd Smugglers.

No smoother smugglers are known to the customs officers than the Chinese. They give endless trouble in the Philippines, where the merchant classes enter in quite large numbers. The American customs officials have become so used to the oily ways of the Chinese that they treat them with scant consideration when it comes to examining baggage. The same is true on the Pacific Coast and the Canadian border.

Anything the yellow man has in the way of chests or boxes is rummaged

remorselessly in spite of protests. Sometimes a careful examination is made of the person of the Chinaman, as it is an easy matter to hide a valuable lot of diamonds in a Chinese queue, or to conceal them in some way in the flowing garments of the celestial.

But for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the "heathen Chinese" has no monopoly when it comes to smuggling. The experience of customs officers is that of all the offenders with whom they have to deal the women smugglers are the most difficult and embarrassing to encounter. Women of high social standing for some reason seem to think it no crime to import valuables in the form of diamonds, lace, furs and the like without paying the Government a cent of duty.

When caught they rely on the defenselessness of their sex to excuse them. Not long ago it developed that women on Fifth avenue, in New York, had been buying smuggled furs. Just to what extent they were accomplices with the parties who were getting furs in by an underground route from Montreal is a question, but it seems impossible that they did not know the goods were smuggled.

Influence Brought to Bear.

When the customs officers swooped down and seized the goods straightway there arose a wall from the injured, and influential fathers and brothers were unsuccessfully enlisted in the cause of getting Uncle Sam to be lenient and generous to his erring daughters and give them back their furs.

One method practiced to some extent by women smugglers is to have an old gown, or a cheap one, trimmed with costly lace when on a trip to Europe or some foreign country. In this way women have been known to get through the customs lines with hundreds of dollars' worth of rich lace.

Concealing Place in Soiled Linen.

Diamonds are sometimes smuggled through by women, who put them in with soiled linen, soiled handkerchiefs and the like, thinking the customs officials will not take the trouble of making a search of clothing that is ready for the laundry.

Being moved by the spirit of duty, the customs officer does not always allow his feelings of elegance to prevent him from a ruthless search of everything the fair traveler's trunk contains. Sometimes it is necessary to compel women suspects to submit to being searched by women inspectors.

Not long ago two women were detected through a search by women inspectors of smuggling furs. One had stuck her foot through a rich fur muff and was thus conveying the article past the customs officers. Her companion had adopted similar methods to carry rich fur garments.

It occasionally happens that a woman is discovered in the endeavor to wear two dresses across the border and sometimes women inspectors find lingerie worn that contains more than its due share of lace. Even diamonds are sometimes carried fastened in the folds of dainty petticoats and other undergarments.